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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,746	04/15/2004	Brian Williams	S694-J	7039
28040	7590	01/24/2007	EXAMINER	
BRUCE A. JAGGER 6100 CENTER DRIVE SUITE 630 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045			CHEN, BRET P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1762	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/824,746

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Examiner

B. Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

#### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-13 in the reply filed on 11/8/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search of Group I will necessarily include a search of the claims of Group II because of electronic searching. This is not found persuasive because the search and prosecution of both groups presents a significant burden on the examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 14-16 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a nonelected invention.

#### ***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

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Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) **if a process, the steps.**

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

It is noted that the claimed invention is directed to a method. The examiner suggests amending the abstract to reflect same.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

It is noted that the claimed invention is directed solely to a method. The examiner suggests amending the title to reflect same.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities listed below. Appropriate correction is required.

On p.4 line 20, reference is made to Serial Number 09/979,929. The reference should be updated to reflect the maturation into a US Patent.

#### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities listed below. Appropriate correction is required.

In claim 1 line 17, the word should be --infiltrant--.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 13 line 2, the term “stoichiometric excess” is deemed vague and indefinite as to what said term means. If the metal is stoichiometric, how can it be excess?

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hecht (5,705,008).** Hecht discloses a method of making a carbon fiber-reinforced composites such as a composite comprising carbon fiber reinforcement embedded in a carbon, thermoset resin, metal or ceramic matrix by infiltrating a porous preform comprising carbonized pitch fiber with the

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matrix component or a precursor thereof, whereby the matrix component is deposited throughout the structure (col.1 lines 10-17) These carbon-carbon fiber composites, which exhibit unusually high thermal conductivity, may be formed by depositing carbon within the interstices of the porous preform by infiltration of the preform using known carbon vapor deposition techniques, or by impregnation of the preform with pitch or a carbonizable resin which then is cured and carbonized (col.1 lines 18-23) and can be used in aircraft disc brakes (col.1 lines 33-50). The perform may be produced by needlepunching a thick, low-density, mat formed of discontinuous thermoset pitch fiber through the thickness, preferably normal to a surface, which serves to increase the density of the structure and to re-orient a portion of the fiber in the thickness direction to improve integrity and strength characteristics (col.5 lines 1-17). The porous carbon structure may be infiltrated by molten metals including copper, aluminum, tin, silver, nickel and the like; brass and other ceramic materials including silica, silicon carbide and silicon nitride; and nitrides, oxides and the like (col.11 line 59 – col.1 line 18). It is the examiner's position that the perform having a void volume and a metal infiltrant having a melting point above about 1850 degrees Centigrade is inherent to the reference above. However, the reference fails to specifically teach sacrificial carbon.

It is noted that the reference clearly teaches of reacting the infiltrant with carbon as noted above. That portion of the carbon that reacts will be considered by one skilled in the art as being similar to sacrificial carbon. It would have been obvious to utilize sacrificial carbon with the expectation of obtaining similar results.

The limitations of claims 2-13 have been addressed above.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to B. Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1417. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bc/al  
1/19/07



**BRET CHEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**